



## **Idaho Education Network Program Resource Advisory Council (IPRAC)**

**April 13, 2010, Meeting Minutes**

*(Approved by Council, May 14, 2010)*

The April 13, 2010 meeting of the IEN Program Resource Advisory Council was held in the Barbara Morgan Conference Room of the Len B. Jordan Building, 650 West State Street, Boise, Idaho.

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **Members/Designate(s) Present:**

Tom Luna (Chair), Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Mike Gwartney (Vice Chair), Director and CIO, Dept. of Administration  
Donna Hutchison, CEO, Idaho Digital Learning Academy  
Rep. Wendy Jaquet  
Sen. Shawn Keough (phone)  
John Miller, Dean of Off Campus Instruction, College of Southern Idaho  
Jim Reed, Superintendent, Weiser School District (phone)  
Jerry Reininger, Director of Information Systems, Meridian School District  
Alicia Ritter, President, Ritter Consulting – Strategic Communication  
Shelly Sayer, Premier Technology Inc.

#### ***Designates***

Rod Blaylock, alternate for Charles Shackett, Bonneville Jt. School District (phone)  
Allen Schmoock, alternate for Dene Thomas, Lewis-Clark State College

#### **Others Present:**

Sally Brevick, Office of the CIO	Keith Murphy, Qwest
Lisa Brown, IDLA	Jerry Piper, Cambridge Telephone Co.
Kay Christensen, Office of the Attorney General	Debra Stephenson-Padilla, IEN
Bob Collie, ENA	Joel Strickler, Qwest
Brady Kraft, IEN	Mike Vance, ENA
Oliver Landow, ENA	Eldon Wallace, Retired
Garry Lough, IEN	Troy Wheeler, Dept. of Education

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Supt. Luna welcomed members and guests present and called the meeting to order.

### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Jerry Reininger moved and John Miller seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 9, 2010; the motion passed unanimously.

### **IENT LEGISLATION**

Supt. Luna commented that, following the last legislative sessions, the IEN would be moving forward with a commitment to providing the transparency expected. Spending authority had been granted for \$3Million offered by the Albertson Foundation which was critical to progressing the project. The legislature had also

provided additional direction in the form of intent language that accompanies [House Bill 728](#), requiring quarterly reports to be submitted to members of the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee and members of the Education Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives, as well as a contract monitoring procedure using the expertise of the IPRAC Technical Committee.

[House Bill 727](#) deals directly with the IEN and includes the reconstitution of the Council:

- the Chairman will continue to be the State Superintendent of Public Instruction
- the Vice Chairman will continue to be the Director of the Dept. of Administration
- The CEO of IDLA remains a member
- 6 legislators: 4 from the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee, plus the Chairs of the Senate and House education committees
- 4 positions appointed by the Supt. of Public Instruction: two public/higher education and two private sector.

Supt. Luna noted the biggest change was that most positions currently held by K12 and higher education were being replaced by members of the legislature, however the expertise the education community brings to the IEN is necessary in moving forward with curriculum and delivery. The IEN will continue to tap into this expertise, whether it is on the Council or through subcommittees.

Alicia Ritter expressed the hope that whatever the make-up of the Council, that the members would make a concerted effort to understand what the project is about. Reports in the media had been disheartening and not reflected the true message of the IEN. Ms Ritter said she hoped the focus would be on communities and economic development as much as funding and politics.

Supt. Luna commented that the IEN had proved very useful for the Post Legislative Tour, enabling remote contact with 5 or 6 regions and school districts and thereby creating savings in staff productivity and travelling expenses.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Garry Lough noted that, with the start of the school semester, the focus now was on communities: assisting the Idaho Health Care Association and Dept. of Labor to drive training out to communities; assisting with fire training; working with the Dept. of Agriculture which is experiencing holdbacks on travel. Mr Lough reported that he had travelled to Sandpoint School District at their request to help facilitate their intention to incorporate three schools into a single virtual classroom, saving them one or two FTEs. P.O.S.T has been broadcasting training to Gooding, Bruno, Clark and Weiser, offering reserve training that they would not normally receive. Mr Lough has been introducing Dr Lance Ford from Tandberg to large groups of teachers, leveraging his extensive knowledge of delivering education over video.

Mr Lough's regularly occurring, single webinar has expanded to three webinars, each providing a different level of detail tailored to the respective recipients – it was suggested that these webinars might be archived. Mr Lough continues to send out the "Update in a Minute" as well as monthly newsletters.

## **CURRICULUM AVAILABLE**

Mr Lough noted advised that Bliss School District is offering Art 201 History and Appreciation of Photography. Mr Lough went on to demonstrate a new application on the IEN website that facilitates interaction between education consumers and originators. The "find-a-course" feature is available for use now, although the data will continue to be built up over time as will the functionality of the site, perhaps one day ending up with Amazon.com-style capabilities.

### Questions and discussion

Rep. Jaquet queried the connection between IEN, IRON and IdaNet. Brady Kraft explained that IdaNet is currently connecting state agencies. The needs, priorities and securities for connecting state agencies is different to those of K12 institutions, however the intent is to eventually connect the IEN to IdaNet, in the same way that IRON is connected to the IEN. Mr Kraft explained further that many of the locations on IdaNet have minimal connectivity and can only support email. These sites cannot currently support VTC, the IEN teleconferencing rooms are available to state agencies so there is no duplication of facilities, but it will be some time before these agencies have sufficient bandwidth to receive training. There are about 56 locations in state agencies now (with scheduling capability) that can handle inter-agency training and meetings but these systems are more inter-departmental rather than statewide. IRON has always been involved with higher education but over time IRON, IEN and IdaNet will merge, with no duplication. Representative Jaquet asked that the Council be kept informed regarding the timeline for the converging of the three systems.

Dr Reininger commented that, as government entities are brought onto the network, the IEN should be cognizant of the requirements for receiving E-Rate funding. Mr Kraft noted that the traffic has to be segregated, as only education-related traffic can receive E-Rate reimbursement, this had been one of the reasons for the separate network. With regards to the IDLA, the Schools and Libraries Division of USAC (Universal Service Administrative Company) specifies that services originating from, or being delivered to, a private residence are not eligible for E-Rate. If the IDLA is originating services in a physical building and students are accessing those services from a school, then those services are eligible for E-Rate, if the student is accessing the services from home then they are not.

### **IMPLEMENTATION STATUS**

Brady Kraft reported that all 80 schools to be connected by June 30 have been identified, 29 schools are complete and 51 are in progress, with five to seven schools being added each week. Everything is on schedule and ahead of budget, costs are coming in within expectation and every school is being closely managed. The breakdown by region shows a higher percentage of connectivity in regions 1, 2 and 5 although the numbers of students served are lower. These figures reflect only the school involvement and not the larger communities who will also be benefitting.

### **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Jerry Reininger reported that the Technical Committee had discussed the possibility of saving and archiving VTC broadcasts for later use. This would be useful for students who miss a class but it raised questions of ownership and copyright. It was agreed that it is not within the scope of the IEN to take on responsibility for managing the recording of transmissions, or any kind of repository. Every IEN VTC system is capable of recording sessions if connected to the appropriate devices. Mr Kraft, having researched the issue of intellectual property, explained that single classes could be recorded for an absent student, but recording a series of classes with the intent of using them the following year was against the law. The IEN needs to provide the right guidance on what is appropriate but the burden rests with the receiving and originating institutions to come to an arrangement about recording broadcasts.

### **QWEST**

Joel Strickler reported that Qwest is on track for the delivery of circuits:

- a 4.4TB backbone circuit from southeast Idaho running west will be completed in the next 60 days;
- in the northern panhandle, a 50Gb upgrade will support the Coeur d'Alene ladder.

These upgrades will allow Qwest to deliver services in a more timely fashion as well as meet the short and long term needs of the IEN. Responding to the Chair, Mr Strickler commented that Qwest would be a conduit for any information required for the quarterly reports requested by the legislature.

## **ENA**

Mike Vance reported that, to date, the IEN has ordered and installed 925Mb of internet access. A question was raised about First Step Internet having received a \$3M federal grant for increasing bandwidth in rural areas and whether this would help the IEN to save money. Mr Kraft advised that the grant First Step had received was for public internet, which the IEN is not using. A meeting is being arranged with some ISPs (internet service providers) to outline what is required for them to be a participant in the last mile. Representative Jaquet suggested it might be worthwhile for legislators to know when this meeting was happening and to receive a report back. Mr Strickler confirmed for Rep. Jaquet that the Qwest infrastructure upgrade in northern Idaho would benefit other businesses in the community.

Supt. Luna requested cash flow charts of E-Rate dollars applied for and being spent by the IEN, status reports will be provided by ENA and Mr Kraft. The Council agreed to revert to monthly meetings in order to be able to provide quarterly reports to the legislature. Consideration was also given to forming a subcommittee to focus on the education or instruct aspect of the IEN. With regard to input from higher education, Mr Schmooch suggested consulting with provosts from colleges and universities. Dr Hutchison suggested forming a business and community relations committee.

Rep. Jaquet requested an update on the lawsuit and the timelines involved. Director Gwartney reported that a hearing was currently in progress that very afternoon and therefore the outcome was not yet known. There would be other hearings and the outcomes would be shared at subsequent Council meetings.

Rep. Jaquet questioned the role of ITRMC (IT Resource Management Council) in regards to the IEN. Director Gwartney explained that the ITRMC reviews all large projects, and as such, the progress of the IEN is reported on from time to time in that forum.

Rep. Jaquet also questioned the need for IEN's contract with ENA, given that schools with whom she had spoken had already undertaken E-Rate applications, and she suggested that ENA's role might be undertaken in-house in order to save funds. Dr Reininger noted that applying for funding at the coordinated state level resulted in significantly higher re-imbursement than would otherwise be the case. Bob Collie advised that ENA undertook other services as well: acting as a central point for all districts facing challenges and requiring assistance and providing overall project management of delivery. ENA has considerable experience and Idaho is just one of five states for whom ENA files for E-Rate. By comparison, Wyoming had undertaken the E-Rate filing in-house, hiring more staff to do so. Idaho had reached a point in the E-Rate process after just a few months that had taken Wyoming four or five years, and this was entirely due to ENA's expertise.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Supt. Luna and Director Gwartney personally thanked the council members for their valuable service and dedication and expressed the wish that their input continue, if not on this Council then in another capacity.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Following this meeting, a meeting of the newly-constituted council was scheduled for May 14, 2010 at 10:00 in the Lewis & Clark Conference Room of the LBJ Building, 650 West State Street.

Respectfully submitted,



Sally Brevick, Office of the CIO